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Spring 2022



Huge Hoosier Logging Proposal Rallies the Heartwood Community

by Andy Mahler

INDIANA – There is something that doesn't sit right about the Forest Service's plan to punch logging roads into the heart of the hardwood forested hills of Orange County, Indiana, in order to log the most magical and historical area in the entire Hoosier National Forest, a place called Buffalo Springs.

The most remarkable thing about Buffalo Springs is you can't find it on any map, because it does not exist on any map, or at least it didn't until now. Let me explain.

It began for us in October 2021, with the arrival of an innocuous-seeming 5 x 7 manila envelope from the Forest Service that turned our world upside down. Because, it turns out, we live very close to the heart of an area of the Hoosier National Forest to which the Forest Service has given the name Buffalo Springs. "Buffalo" because it includes the historic Buffalo Trace used by migrating herds of bison and later the early Euro-American settlers; and "Springs" because it features the numerous mineral-rich springs frequented by the buffalo and others that led to establishment of the resort towns of French Lick and West Baden (known as Springs Valley).

Included in the envelope was a Forest Service proposal to "restore" Buffalo Springs and a remarkably confusing, complex, and inadequate multicolored 8½ x 11 map representing the nearly 30,000-acre area they were now calling Buffalo Springs. Their proposal includes

- More than 5,000 acres of logging, including more than 1,200 acres of clearcuts.
- 19 miles of road construction, including turning 8 miles of the 13-mile horse trail that runs past our home into a gravel log road.
- Burning more than 15,000 acres of Buffalo Springs multiple times.
- Spraying nearly eight hundred acres with herbicide — all in the name of "restoration."

There are actually many things that don't sit right about the Forest Service's proposal to log and burn Buffalo Springs. Here are a few:

1. The oaks

The scoping letter for the BS proposal states that the primary purpose for

Heartwood Gathers in Person for the 30th Annual Forest Council!

After two long years of pandemic quarantine, even the most reclusive and isolated Heartwood activists are ready for some social contact! Thanks to the generous support of our members, Heartwood has been able to keep the website operational and the newsletter published on time, funded entirely by donations from you! The Heartwood Coordinating Council has prepared a weekend full of speakers, workshops, hikes, and delicious meals to nourish and sustain the grassroots forest defense movement, and we invite you to join us as we celebrate 30 (plus two!) years of victory and survival, console one another in our losses and defeats, and support one another in our common struggle for wildness, justice, and solidarity.

See pages 8-9 for more information and vaccination requirements!

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Heartwood welcomes any and all volunteer contributions to this publication from the grassroots community. Deadline for fall issue contributions is on or before August 15 for publication September 1. Send us your campaign updates, photos, commentary, satire, art, poems, politics, polemics, rants, or recipes to info@heartwood.org more info on our website: <https://heartwood.org/heartbeat/>

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No possums were harmed in the making of this publication. Delivery, not so much. Drive compassionately.

In Memoriam: Barney Bush

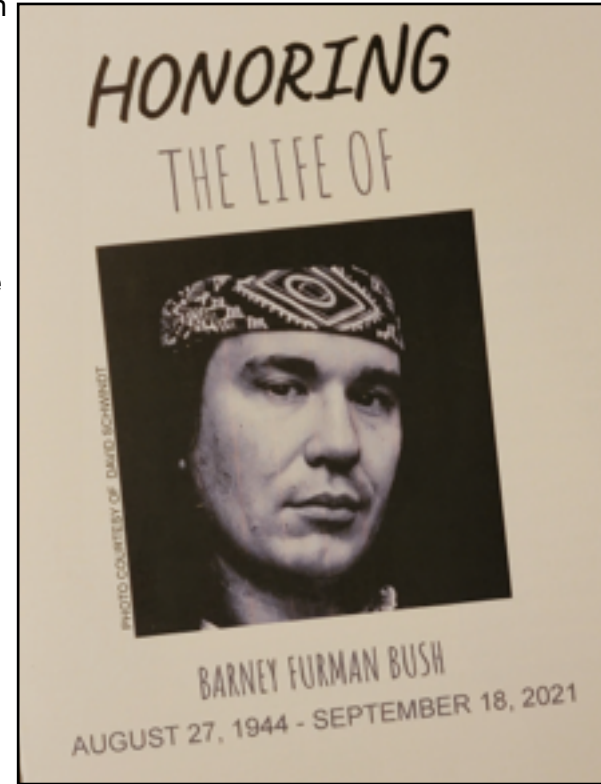
by Braze T. Smith

The evening I first met Barney Bush, I had received an invitation from a mutual friend to a small impromptu poetry reading at a place called the Vinyard Indian Settlement in southern Illinois. A dear lifelong friend of Barney's was at the settlement stopping over from his international travels, and I was a part of 12 or so people at this gathering, some of whom were regular fixtures at the settlement and others (like myself) attending for the first time. Barney exited the front office as a shadow backlit by bright porch lights. Upon being introduced to Barney towering over us, illuminated in shadow while standing on his front porch, I said, "I am glad to meet you, your reputation precedes you," to which he instantly retorted, "What have you heard?! Whatever it is, I didn't do it and it probably isn't true." This was Barney's fashion, as I came to learn: humor couched in sarcasm, a challenge to a newcomer to test their resolve. I replied that in all sincerity, I had heard of his work having lived in Union County for the last few years and followed his work with the anti-fracking movement. To which he replied in an even more challenging and harder tone, "Are you trying to suck up?" I was a bit aghast; I had never received such a challenge in a friendly exchange. I vowed my sincerity and thought that conversation had escalated rather quickly, but parted with him saying, "I already like you, but we will see." An enjoyable evening followed with poetry from Lance Henson and a relevant-to-the-times discussion ranging from colonialism to history, naturalism, and the state of the human condition.

This experience was my first impression of Barney — and the start of a friendship that would last until the end of his life, about 11 years later. But really, first impressions of people I have always found to be so telling of my experience to come in so many cases. The little nuances foretelling of character and the gait of a person's animus. In this case, I walked away seeing a man of great personal power; a man who was outspoken, challenging the authenticity of a person's positions; and a man of great stature, both physically and metaphorically. Barney had a way of seeing into each one of us, measuring our quality, and then taking the time to interact with each one of us on our own terms, giving encouragement and wisdom along the path. This was my first impression of Barney. If I had only known how deep that well had gone.

In the ensuing years, I moved from Union County to Pope County, about 13 miles from the settlement, after which I became a regular face at the settlement. My contribution there was primarily as a maintenance and repair person, and Barney was always in some need of my services. He always thanked me for my efforts, saying that he and technology "never got along" and that he could "shoe a horse or clean a rabbit" but could never understand how the technician did their work. I was always thanked with a rich, home-cooked meal and an evening's conversation. He had a unique way of cooking, combining his Appalachian upbringing with a southwestern flair; no matter what Barney prepared, you could always count on it being really good and always being offered seconds or thirds after you had had enough to the point of too much. And there was always a box of food to take home, oftentimes being of great benefit to me. I have often thought that food and the act of sharing food at a community table was an expression of both culture and love; Barney was never in short supply of either ingredient. This was an expression of his indigenous cultural tradition of hospitality. As a matter of fact, it was really quite impossible to stop by for a small piece of business or a quick hello without being offered a full gourmet meal, at the very least; if you didn't accept a drink of some sort, you risked giving offense. His conversation after dinner was always engaging, sharing history and lore not written in any book but passed to him by his elders and ancestors. He had a unique take on history and knew of the many truths obscured by the colonial empire in the history books.

In his career he was an artist and an educator, instructing in language and language arts, always focusing on Native youth and the Native Peoples of the Americas and beyond. He spoke many indigenous and European languages fluently and was well-versed in the Algonquin family of languages, which contained his ancestral language of Showdin Shawnee. He could competently get a "pass," as he put it, on languages like Hopi and Navajo (non-Algonquin languages). I can't tell you the countless times I was there, and he was on an hours-long call with a relative or distant relation, going on in a language that I had no understanding for meaning, but sounded like poetry or verse in the musical way in which it flowed. Barney loved language and what language is and what language means. He was a contemplative man who was always pondering the layers of meaning that words can convey, always tuning each word to provide many layers of depth to meaning. He was incredibly disciplined in his use of words, as a master blacksmith pounding and refining each composition with expert strikes imparting form. His compositions were mainly of his feeling for his homeland, and expressing the range of feelings that the colonial machine prompted in a world of culture wars, the genocide of his people being fresh and ongoing in his ancestral and cultural envelope. His devotion to the ancestors and those people who were here before was deep and unwavering. His fearlessness and outspokenness provoked by design every emotion. Over the years of knowing him, I had attended many of his readings and presentations. His presence always filled the room and everyone in attendance hung on his every word. I could only imagine what it was like to be in his classroom; without a shred of doubt, Barney was one of those teachers who touched those students in a way that changed their lives. Even at the time of his passing, he was in touch with prior students who sat in



his classroom 40 years past. His special magic was in reaching out to at-risk youth with thick veils of reluctance, breaking down those barriers with real dialogue, creating a connection, and tending to that connection as a gardener tends green space. It was that way with literally thousands of people, and this was Barney's true and special gift to the world: the fact that he actively cultivated each of those relationships, inspiring deep love and loyalty that will last beyond his lifetime.

Barney was not only a teacher and a poet, but he was also very much a warrior. As a warrior who stands between all harm and the people, with a selfless and spiritual dedication to their well-being and continuance, Barney took this calling in a very deep way. Worth more than his own well-being, Barney went on many metaphorical and literal warpaths of defense and retribution. He was a founding member of the Four Corners chapter of the American Indian Movement (AIM). Over the years he shared with me many deeds of having counted coup on his enemies. These went with him to his grave, and even after his passing will go with me to my grave. I will stand in the testament and paraphrase that extreme action is in response to extreme circumstances, and is justified in defiance ensuring the cultural continuation of his people, to which in one expression or another was the effort and meaning of his life. This was another important aspect of Barney's personality: He wasn't just words; he was also a man of action, risking life, limb, and liberty to fulfill his goals. In his estimation, there are times when creating offense to the colonial status quo was a morally correct action. A warrior neither seeks harm nor needlessly risks harm without cause. This is the regulator that so many activists today seem to forget, having a fatalistic dedication to a cause and too often finding those penalties without effective results. Barney was a hit-and-run kind of strategist, which is really the only valid tactic when opposing a superior-in-resources enemy. Barney, in other words, would fight but live today, to run away and fight another day. This is the way of the warrior he so nobly exemplified.

The standard memorial seems as though we always talk of those who have passed measuring their lives by their job, their children, their dedication to faith and community. In the case of Barney Bush, all of those things are a pale metric in the light of his life. Barney was a man of substance who, when he lost his cool, you really deserved it, usually. His intent was never to harm, but to help the subject of his temper become a better person. In his humility, these lessons were lost by many. He had a part of his personality that was as smooth as sand and went down like vinegar; this was the side of Barney that a lot of folks had issues with. He wasn't always agreeable and had a way of deflating the illusions we keep about ourselves. Those who could weather this storm learned and grew as a person, Barney being the humble universal messenger for these often uncomfortable truths. Some said he had no filter. I disagree — he had no clutch, he knew exactly what he was saying before he said it. He had an unfettered directness that challenged our preconceptions and invited us to reevaluate our truths, ending in a red carpet to change our mind — geared not, in particular, to agree with his way of thinking on any given subject, but an open invitation to learn HOW to think as opposed WHAT to think. The TRUTH was held high in his virtues, and I believe he especially esteemed those in whom he saw this same dedication.

There were a few notable times in my 11 years of friendship with Barney when I was in some sort of crisis. Barney was one of the very few people I knew I could trust to adequately listen to what I had to say and whom I could trust to make a judgment on what part I had to contribute to whatever crisis I had to face. He always had good words of assurance, which nearly always returned to two simple principles: "breathe" and "be in the moment" — reminders I will never forget and always treasure. Even with its trials and tribulations, facing the cultural trauma that every Native lives with on a daily and generational basis, Barney always had a smile and kind words for all those he met. His sense of humor sometimes took a dark turn, which was always a point of great amusement in our friendship.

The things I will miss most will be his surety, his infectious belly laugh, his irreverent humor, his sincere dedication to his living people and his culture, to the memory of the ancestors and to those who came before. He always said he loved his people and that any other person who wasn't from his tribe, who loved the earth, these people were also his allies. He, through our friendship, became fascinated by the concept of native northern European indigenous cultural reconstruction, which has distinct parallels to the struggle of his people and which accounted for

many hours of our conversations. The idea that what happened to his ancestors also happened to our European ancestors more than a thousand years before. I think this softened his view of Europeans in general and allowed him to see parallels between the struggle of our two peoples, and that even though our European ancestors became the strong arm of the empire after our various occupations and defeat, he came to more fully realize that there is an ancestral memory in all peoples where we were living in a healthy and indigenous way. Barney's wealth in this life transcended far beyond those things that glitter, as the true wealth of a genuine human being is in the lives that were touched and the people who will hold you in their heart for all of their time, for the rest of their lives. In this way, Barney will never be forgotten but his memory will live on in all of our hearts, and for the literally thousands of people who loved him all have become a family, as extended and as dysfunctional as we may be. I know he now sits at the tribal fire with all of his relations and the ancestors. We had spoken of his death many times over the twilight years of his life, and he repeatedly told me he was looking forward most to seeing his mother and being reunited with his dogs, his dogs for which he had infinite love and they in return had absolute loyalty.

Barney achieved the fulfillment of a life that so few achieve. He walked the path of a genuine human being. It was a life with dark corners overcome with patience, wisdom, and the love of life. He will be dearly missed, and the part of his culture he taught me that will live with me forever is the Shawnee word ogona (O-go-Na') which serves as both a greeting and a farewell, a signifier of both friendship and good blessings for those it was used with. Barney said that this word was never used with strangers and rarely outside the tribe, as its meaning was so special it was never used in a casual or an insincere way.

What can I do but continue to celebrate his life in my living memory, and wish my friend a good journey beyond?

I know now that you are walking along cool streams with good water and plenty of good green grass for your horse, a belly full of laughter, and a heart full of love for a life well-lived.

Ogona, my friend.

BARNEY TAKES WING

The Crows Call Today
A Resonating Lament
A Warrior Flies Among Them

Soaring To New Heights Above The Clouds

Tear Drops Will Fall As Rain
A Steady Downpour
Until None Are Left
To Moisten Our Faces

His Strength Must Be Taken In, Carried
Forward, Proudly, Without Fear

His Honor Draped Across All Our Shoulders

His Words In Our Hearts Forever

poem by Corina Lang

Coal River Mountain Watch News

by Vernon Haltom

Coal River Mountain Watch is now unionized!

WEST VIRGINIA – We voluntarily recognized the Coal River Mountain Watch Union (IWW) on Labor Day 2021, and, after a short series of bargaining sessions, approved a contract beginning Feb. 1, 2022. Staff member Junior Walk (outreach coordinator, site monitor, drone pilot) said, “I’m beyond proud to be in a union now, and I’m beyond proud to work for an organization that values my rights as a worker. Here’s to a brighter future for West Virginia and the brave souls who try to make it a better place to live.”



Educational and community service visits

In March and April, Junior will be giving tours to student groups visiting to see ongoing mountaintop removal and other coal industry damage up close and participate in Tadpole Project cleanup days. If you’d like to bring a group for an educational or community service visit, please contact us at coalriver@crmw.net.

Community protection opportunities

CRMW is monitoring existing mountaintop removal permits on Coal River Mountain, opposing new permits on neighboring Paint Mountain, and opposing renewal permits on neighboring Cherry Pond Mountain. You can join in to oppose renewal of Lexington Coal Company’s Twilight III-A permit, permit number S502408, on an online informal conference March 2 at 3 p.m. at meet.google.com/irs-avwf-eqn. You can also email your opposition by March 2 to WVDEP permit supervisor David Wagner at david.r.wagner@wv.gov. This permit, along with Lexington’s other adjoining permits on the sprawling Twilight mountaintop removal complex on Cherry Pond Mountain, are under a consent decree for failure to keep up with their reclamation schedule.

To stop the spread of mountaintop removal, and the deadly health impacts it imposes on Appalachian communities, we need to pass the Appalachian Communities Health Emergency (ACHE) Act, H.R. 2073 in the current US House. As an individual, you can contact your US congressional delegation to urge them to cosponsor the ACHE Act — or, if you represent an organization, you can endorse the ACHE Act. Both actions are easy at www.acheact.org.

Keep up with us

For frequent updates on our work and how to take action, please follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CRMWSTOPMTR or Instagram at www.instagram.com/coalrivermountain, or check out our website at www.crmw.net.



Genetically Engineered Trees: Growing Threats to Eastern Forests

by Theresa Church

Assistant Director, Global Justice Ecology Project

We are closer than ever to climate tipping points that could significantly change life as we know it. Bearing the brunt of the climate crisis are our forests, which are the basis for so-called nature-based solutions (NBS). These NBS schemes are not, however, intended to seriously address the climate crisis — but to provide “offsets” and other excuses that enable industry and governments to maintain business as usual. These NBS schemes underpin the political push to develop genetically engineered (GE) trees for agriculture and forestry offsets. While they may sound appealing on paper, the reality is that GE trees could further exacerbate the climate crisis by threatening forest ecosystems, Indigenous Peoples, and biodiversity — especially in eastern forests. An American chestnut tree has been genetically engineered with a wheat gene to resist fungal blight — and despite the fact that not enough testing has been done to prove this is safe, it is being considered for deregulation and researchers intend to release it into wild forests throughout the eastern US.

Eastern forests and the forests of the Appalachians are additionally threatened by a new GE poplar engineered to kill fungus and grow faster. Mine reclamation sites are being targeted by Living Carbon, the new startup company that is developing these GE poplars. The USDA has decided not to regulate this tree due to the technology used to develop it, which leaves the door wide open to the development of huge monoculture plantations of the fungus-killing tree on the hundreds of thousands of acres of mine sites throughout the region. Living Carbon also intends to sell these trees to timber multinationals and large landowners for industrial plantations. They are marketing the carbon “stored” in these rot-resistant plantations as “carbon offsets” to polluters that enable them to avoid emissions cuts — for which they would get a cut of the profits. There are no assessments of the risks these fungicidal trees pose to forest ecosystems, water, or nearby human communities.

Long-term risks associated with either of these GE trees and their pollen and seeds to forests, wildlife, and human health are unknown. Rather than provide a solution, GE trees have the potential to damage forests and escalate climate change, environmental destruction, and economic inequality. Without a fundamental systemic transformation, no progress toward a liveable future will be made.

The Campaign to STOP GE Trees released a statement titled “GE Trees: NO Solution to Climate Change,” which goes into greater detail on the threats GE trees pose to the climate. Here is an excerpt: “As concern about the climate crisis intensifies, so does rhetoric surrounding the role of forests, trees and carbon storage in climate mitigation. The science is clear that halting destruction of forests, which includes respecting the territorial rights of communities and peoples who depend on forests, is among the most effective, proven, and available means of removing carbon from the atmosphere, and that undisturbed forests with diverse species, rich intact soils and deadwood store far more carbon than industrial tree plantations.”

Despite this established science, the tree biotechnology industry and its allies in academia are cynically capitalizing on the climate crisis to promote their genetically engineered (GE) trees as a climate “solution,” arguing their GE trees will sequester “more carbon.” Additionally, GE trees are being designed specifically to be cut on short rotations and to provide a rapid supply of wood for the purpose of maintaining business as usual, in the form of bioenergy, biochemicals and bioplastics, construction, alternatives to concrete, and many other purportedly “green” uses.

Yet GE trees and the plantations — especially in the proposed locations — threaten forests, communities, and health, as well as divert resources from proven effective and equitable solutions. GE trees will not solve climate change but exacerbate it by interfering with efforts to protect and regenerate forests.

To join the effort to keep wild forests safe from the unknown and unknowable risks of genetically engineered trees, contact us at info@globaljusticeecology.org or go to stopgetrees.org.

Ohio Citizens Rally to Create Conservancy

by Timi Singley

OHIO – It began with a July 7, 2021, letter from Sustainable Delaware County (SDO) asking concerned citizens to show up in droves to help stop a planned housing development that would sit on 23.5 acres of land directly across from one of two privately-owned state nature preserves in Ohio.

Delaware County, Ohio, is the fastest growing county in the entire state for the past 10 years, a hotbed of unbridled development. Farmland and forests, wetlands and streams have disappeared rapidly. Few citizens have been able to stave off or slow the breakneck speed of development as Powell, Lewis Center, and now the City of Delaware have become a booming extension of Columbus' greater metropolitan area. The consequences are being felt already.

Jeff Dickinson, former Executive Director of Stratford Ecological Center, asked for support from friends and colleagues across the state to attend a meeting on July 9, 2021, in an effort to head off a zoning change on the 23.5-acre property by the Delaware Township zoning board from industrial/agriculture to residential. He was working to negotiate with the developer but truly was interested in preserving and restoring the historical wetlands on the property. Those wetlands serve as the headwaters which feed the vernal pools that are part of the state nature preserve. Those vernal pools contain protected wildlife which will be negatively impacted if the planned high-density development comes to fruition.

At the meeting, developers and investors sat close to the front of the room while community member after community member filed in for what would be a very heated discussion. The large group of citizens — from neighbors and landowners to watershed protection leaders, ecologists, and climate activists — asked questions, listened to the plans, and expressed their concerns about the 155-unit housing complex that would impact the wetlands and endanger the preserve.

Ultimately, the zoning board decided unanimously to deny the request for a zoning change to the land after a petition containing more than 750 names was presented, opposing the development. But that isn't the end of the story. Citizens are still waiting to learn investors' plans for the land since that particular development was denied; other neighbors are fighting another development in the north end of the county which threatens forests and several tributaries to a federally protected stream.

Sometimes, our biggest obstacles wake us up to larger challenges and the need for real change. After their small victory, Delaware County community members decided that a sustained effort must be made to stave off the looming and pervasive threat to the remaining greenspace in the city of Delaware (where only 2% green space remains) and in the county as a whole.

On October 24, 2021, a group of committed volunteers formed a Delaware County Land Conservancy with the goal to secure, by any means possible, with community partnerships and individuals, even if it means purchasing small and large parcels of land in Delaware County. Though in its infancy, the mission of DCLC is to preserve land, including, but not limited to, wetlands, forests, and agricultural tracts, and to regenerate land into biodiverse, climate-positive, functional landscapes that improve our community's health, economy, and ecological footprint.

For more information about or to contribute to land preservation efforts in Delaware County, Ohio, please contact Delaware County Land Conservancy at delawareCLT@gmail.com.



photo by Robbie Heinrich

Missing Link in Biden's Climate Agenda: Letting Older Trees Grow

by Randi Spivak

WASHINGTON DC — A coalition of more than 70 groups launched a new campaign in February of this year called the Climate Forests Campaign and called on the Biden administration to take executive action to protect mature trees and forests on federal lands, which are critical in the fight against climate change.

"It's completely unacceptable that federal land managers lack strong policies to protect old trees and forests, given all we know about how critical they are to our climate and biodiversity," said Randi Spivak, public lands program director at the Center for Biological Diversity. "We're calling on President Biden to safeguard these beautiful, life-giving ecosystems to have a shot at a livable planet. It's cheaper, smarter, and quicker than logging them. We just need to let them grow."

The campaign launch comes a year after Biden signed an executive order setting a path to achieve net-zero emissions economy-wide by 2050 and work with partners internationally to put the world on a sustainable climate pathway.

February marks the 117th anniversary of the US Forest Service. For more than a century, the agency has focused much of its resources on logging and timber sales. The Climate Forests Campaign is calling on the Biden administration to kick off a new era of climate and forest policy that values trees and forests as key pieces of the climate solution.

Forests, particularly older forests, store vast amounts of carbon and continue absorbing carbon as they age. Logging trees in these areas releases most of that carbon back into the atmosphere. Even under the best-case scenario, newly planted forests would not reabsorb this carbon for decades or centuries — timescales irrelevant to avoiding the worst consequences of climate change.

Older trees and forests also are more fire resistant and help curb the effects of climate change by slowing soil erosion and moderating temperatures.

Carbon-absorbing older forests are also the best habitat for thousands of wildlife species, including spotted owls, red-cockaded woodpeckers, and pine martens.

The last comprehensive federal policy to protect national forests, the Roadless Rule, was enacted in 2001 under President Bill Clinton. The rule was adopted to protect nearly 60 million acres of designated roadless areas from logging and roadbuilding, safeguarding significant stands of remaining old growth. Though these areas act as a critical carbon sink, most older trees on federal land lie outside of roadless areas.

"Older forests on federal lands work as a natural climate solution, drawing down massive amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere," said Spivak. "The science is clear that we should be protecting existing old-growth trees and allowing mature trees and forests to grow. This would show the world that Biden takes his pledge to end global forest losses seriously."





photo by John Wallace

Forest Service Proposes Quadrupling Timber Harvests in Country's Most Popular National Forest

Pisgah-Nantahala National Forest Plan Fails to Protect Old-Growth Forests, Water, Rare Species in North Carolina

by Will Harlan

ASHEVILLE, NC — The long-awaited Pisgah-Nantahala National Forest Plan proposes a massive increase in timber harvests while weakening protections for old-growth forests and rare species.

The Forest Service plan is a blueprint for the next 15 to 30 years of management for the 1.1-million-acre national forest in western North Carolina. It will guide which areas of the forest will be logged and which will be protected.

“The final plan doesn’t reflect the interests of the public, who have overwhelmingly supported more and stronger protections for Pisgah-Nantahala,” said Will Harlan, a senior campaigner at the Center for Biological Diversity. “Instead, the plan prioritizes logging and utterly fails to protect old-growth forests, rare species, and clean water.”

The Pisgah-Nantahala is the country’s most popular national forest; nearly 5.2 million people visited it last year. The forest provides drinking water for cities, businesses, and communities across the Southeast.

Under the plan, over half of the forest — 540,000 acres — would be open to logging, according to the Pisgah-Nantahala National Forest’s Final Environmental Impact Statement. The plan quadruples the acres of forests that would be cut down annually.

The plan fails to protect most of the forest’s important recreation and conservation areas. It removes protections for 100,000 acres of Wilderness Inventory Areas and places 45,000 acres of North Carolina Natural Heritage Areas in logging-priority designations. The plan also allows 40,000 acres of old-growth forests to be logged.

The plan also excludes over a quarter-million acres of mature, intact forest from its old-growth network to accommodate a massive increase in timber harvests, which will also have significant impacts on rare and endangered species. At least 20 rare species have most of their habitat placed in logging-priority designations.

Significant portions of the Appalachian Trail, Art Loeb Trail, Bartram Trail, Benton MacKaye Trail, and Mountains to Sea Trail corridors will now be open to logging.

The climate and carbon-storage benefits of mature, intact forests are largely neglected in favor of increased timber harvests.

“Our publicly owned national forests are far more valuable standing than chainsawed down,” said Harlan. “Protecting drinking water, clean air, scenic views, iconic trails, and old-growth forests will provide far more benefits than board feet of timber.”

The Forest Service received a record-setting number of comments on the forest plan, and over 92% of them supported more permanently protected areas for the Pisgah-Nantahala.



The Biomass Industry Plans to Clearcut 273 Acres of Georgia Forests Per Day

by Vicki Weeks

GEORGIA – Do you know the story of Adel, Georgia? Do you know about the town’s fight to comment on an influx of even more corporate polluters? Well, Adel is still fighting for Georgia forests and communities — even though the GA Environmental Protection Division (EPD) refuses to provide a comment period.

Dogwood and its allies have been fighting this battle in Adel for more than a year now. We’ve had some incredible successes. But it would be a stunning blow if the GA EPD approves the permit for another plant in South Georgia.

Spectrum Energy wants to build a bigger plant near the Renewable Biomass Group facility we’ve fought against. Enviva is the world’s largest exporter of pellets. They recently purchased the wood pellet facility in nearby Waycross. Enviva wants to expand capacity by 500,000 metric tons per year. That’s three massive forest-eating facilities in the same South Georgia area. Georgia forests will become 4,153,000 metric tons of pellets. That’s 99,672 acres each year. That’s more than 200 football fields per day. All destined to burn in Europe, where the CO2 emissions are not counted. If we leave it up to big business and politicians, there won’t be a tree left standing in South Georgia.

It’s clear why the southeastern US has the shameful title: Most Heavily Disturbed Forest Landscape in the World.

Even if this isn’t happening in your town, that doesn’t mean it won’t affect all of us. Are we going to wait until our forests are gone before we take notice?

The science is conclusive: Turning forests into pellets to burn for energy is BAD for the planet. Why? Here’s what a pellet plant brings to town:

- Air pollution
- Increased respiratory and cardiovascular illness in both adults and children
- Loss of carbon sequestration
- Loss of flood control
- Loss of biodiversity
- Waterways overloaded with runoff and sedimentation
- Fire and explosion hazards
- Noise pollution
- Decreased property values

That’s the production of the pellets before they’re shipped across the ocean and burned in Europe.

No one wants this dirty industry right down the street.

Greedy corporations target low-wealth communities of color for their dirty plants that no one else wants nearby. In Georgia, five of the eight proposed or existing facilities are in environmental justice communities.

All this at a time when the planet needs its forests more than ever.

In 2021, many national outlets questioned biomass like CNN, the *New York Times*, the *New Yorker*, the *Daily Mail*, *Politico*, and *Huffpost*. But they only report the news. It’s our job to act on it.

How do we store carbon, protect biodiversity, and increase resilience to fires, droughts, floods, and disease? We protect and preserve Georgia forests. We push back against an industry responsible for ravaging the world’s forests.

Thanks to those who’ve fought for Adel citizens’ right to a healthy home.

New Name, Same Old Forest Industry: Why SFI Certification Is Greenwashing

by Scot Quaranda

ASHEVILLE, NC – Dogwood Alliance has transformed the paper industry around the world. We have convinced Staples, Office Depot, Johnson & Johnson, and dozens of other Fortune 500 companies to adopt environmental paper policies and ultimately got the two largest paper companies in the South to stop logging endangered forests, end the conversion of natural forests to plantation, and invest in forest conservation across the region. Our demands are always simple:

- Protect endangered forests
- Stop turning natural forests into tree plantations
- End destructive practices like clearcutting
- Stop poisoning our communities and water with toxic chemicals

We've worked hard to expose the paper industry's greenwashing.

What is greenwashing?

Companies use greenwashing practices to convince us that their products are an environmental benefit when they're not. They use misleading information and industry buzzwords like "sustainability", "clean", "green product", "renewable", and "natural".

This environmental marketing claim appeals to people who want to be responsible consumers. Companies like this will do anything to get our money except change their practices or improve their supply chain.

Sometimes they even buy fancy certifications to prove that their company is green. Forest certifications are a way companies can "prove" that they did little or no harm with their forest operations while harvesting the wood. But the environmental impact of harvesting remains. In plain language, this is greenwashing: making consumers feel good about their choices without making any changes to how business is done.



What is SFI certification?

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) is an organization that offers empty certifications to greenwashers. For obeying the weak SFI forest management standard, manufacturers get to put the SFI symbol on their forest products.

They do this for a price. You'll find the SFI seal on greenwashed products that hurt forests and communities. The SFI seal assures consumers that someone is regulating the company's forest practices. But SFI covers up damaging practices, certifies forest destruction, and calls it green. Just because we call something "eco-friendly" doesn't mean that it actually is.

Is SFI forest management eco-friendly?

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative supports forest management practices that are very damaging to our forests. The average clearcut approved by SFI is the size of 90 football fields. Does that seem environmentally friendly to you? The environmental impacts of SFI are a real threat to our natural resources.

They use other forest management practices that are damaging as well. SFI allows their forest managers to use dangerous pesticides. Those can affect biological diversity and even our drinking water. Does that seem eco-friendly to you?

SFI also allows its forest managers to log old-growth forests, endangered forests, AND turn natural forests into pine plantations. Is that environmentally friendly? Vague claims about SFI representing "green products" simply don't hold up.

Updates to the SFI certification by its certification body haven't improved SFI at all. Instead of creating stringent standards, they've continued to water down their regulations. Forest management under SFI is no better than forest management by big companies who don't care about forests. SFI is really just slapping a green sheen on the same old dirty logging industry secret.



photo courtesy Dogwood Alliance

Same old greenwashing industry

SFI is at it again with the latest updates to its forest products certification scheme. But they're still giving green cover for

- Biodiversity loss
- The speedup of the climate crisis
- Putting our communities in harm's way

SFI has updated its standards for the certification of forests and forest products. Those updates go into effect in 2022. SFI claims to have made major improvements for climate and biodiversity in their press releases.

Our friends at the Sierra Club have done an in-depth analysis of the changes. The Sierra Club found that it's still the same old forest industry greenwash. Their forest management practices have remained the same — it's just more deceptive "green" marketing. Collectively, SFI practices are no better than those of oil companies.

SFI's new standards are the same as the old ones. They allow business-as-usual industrial logging and then claim sustainability. They guarantee little and are full of loopholes and vague language. This lets the largest timber companies in North America call themselves green while they use poor forest management and hurt our forests.

"New" SFI environmental claims

They don't protect old growth and endangered forests. SFI-certified companies "support and participate in programs for the conservation of old-growth forests in the region of ownership or tenure."

They don't protect endangered or vulnerable species. Companies only need to create a "program to protect" species.

They don't recognize Indigenous Peoples' right to approve or deny logging. They don't respect traditional Indigenous rights and resources. SFI-certified companies must only "develop and implement a written policy acknowledging a commitment to recognize and respect" Indigenous rights.

Despite the SFI "updates" and green marketing, the outcome is the same: weak instead of stringent standards that don't reflect the public's environmental and social values. SFI remains a labeling system whose central pillar is greenwashing.

As you purchase forest market products like paper, cardboard, and wood, take steps to avoid greenwashing. Look for post-consumer recycled content and buy only what you need. Taking steps like these can protect future generations from the impacts of poor forest management and climate change.



Trolls: Ancient Defenders of the Forest

by Corina Lang

Trolls date back to ancient Norse and Viking culture appearing in the oldest definitive text, the Prose Edda. Stated by folklore expert Magnus Olafsson: "The stories of antiquity are allegorical accounts that teach their audience to respect both the spirit of the land and the natural environment in which they reside, where earthquakes, volcanoes, and extreme weather conditions constantly pose a very real and tangible threat."

These beings are said to live in communities supporting each other. As described in the stories, there are many different types of both trolls and elves. While trolls are more known to be unfriendly and menacing, I don't think we can blame them when we understand they are trying to protect their homelands. Plus, there are many stories in which the trolls can be helpful, including rescuing humans. I really enjoyed learning they are known for their brute strength and connection to nature. Of course, the recent usage of the word "troll" ("trolling") has a very negative connotation, but perhaps it is just another example of humans using non-human beings to describe their own bad behavior, such as "pigs", "rats", "weasels", and "snakes" – oh my!

The three trolls represented in the Bernheim Forest are named and have quite the following. Unfortunately, some stones were taken from a bracelet one troll wears, which resulted in an outpouring of children sending stones to replace them. Thomas Dambo thanked all the folks. Speaking for the troll by saying she was very pleased and grateful and suggested a necklace be made with all the extra stones sent in. I hope the presence of the trolls will inspire others to take up the good fight and protect the earth. Perhaps we can put out an open invitation to all beings of such ilk, regardless of preconceived notions.

I encourage everyone to learn more about these fascinating creatures. There seems to be an endless narrative. I feel we need all the magic we can bring in. As I said before, it is no coincidence that the upcoming Forest Council is happening where we can all gather to meet them, and in a time when we must all work together to build our strengths and connection to nature. The true strength of Heartwood is in its perseverance in saving the places we love. Join us and the trolls as we continue our march forward.

*Reprinted from the Spring 2020 issue of Heartbeat, read the full article archived on our website!
<https://heartwood.org/heartbeat/>*

Grateful thanks to the co-sponsors of the 30th Annual Heartwood Forest Council!



Pre-register before May 14 and mail this form to us with your payment, or pay at the gate when you arrive!

Register early! It helps us in our planning, especially when buying the FOOD!

Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

___ **Full Weekend: \$140 BYO Camping Gear** *four days, three nights, all meals and workshops and outings*
 ___ + \$20.00 cabin bunk byo bedding

___ **Half Weekend : \$90 one night, two days with meals**

___ **One Day: \$60 no overnight stay, three meals, all workshops**

___ **Dinner and Evening Show: \$30**

___ **Renew Membership: \$30 \$60 \$90**

___ **Donate to the Scholarship Fund \$ _____**

___ **Donate to the Direct Action Fund \$ _____**

___ **Yes, I am interested in Carpooling or Rideshare.**

___ **Other:** (dietary requirements, medical needs, travel quirks, etc.) _____

remit form and payment via USPS **before May 14** to
 Heartwood
 PO Box 543
 Tell City, IN 47586
 or register online
<https://heartwood.org/events/>

TOTAL: _____



Join Us for the Thirtieth Annual

Heartwood Forest Council

May 27-30, 2022, Memorial Day Weekend

Camp Piomingo 1950 Otter Creek Park Road Brandenburg, KY 40108

located on a scenic bluff overlooking the Ohio River near the city of Louisville
and the Bernheim Arboretum, home of the famous giant trolls
and the very tiny Bluff Vertigo Snail!

Weekend Highlights

Friday Evening Bioregional Welcome with John Blair, President of Valley Watch

Saturday Speakers and Panel Discussion with

- Andrew Berry, Director of Conservation for the Bernheim State Forest and Arboretum
- Tierra Curry, Conservation Biologist and Senior Scientist at the Center for Biological Diversity
- Tom Fitzgerald, Senior Staff Attorney for Kentucky Resources Council

Workshops and Discussion Groups on the Hoosier National Forest BS Loggery Pipelines on the Bernheim, Amazingly Tiny Snails, and other bioregional topics

Children's Activities **Live and Silent Auction**

Shawnee Showdown Roadshow and Movie Feature

Live Music and Dancing

Campfire Evenings

featuring **Jason Wilber**, singer-songwriter from Bloomington, IN, lead guitarist for John Prine's band

and Zu Zu Ya Ya

Sunday Hikes and Outings to the Bernheim Forest and Arboretum

*Visit the Forest Giant Trolls, Walk the Endangered Forest Pipeline Route,
or Explore Limestone Caves! Camp Activities and Rainy Day Movies*

Heartwood believes in science and we recommend all attendees follow CDC guidelines on public health. Please get vaccinated and bring an extra mask! Buy one of our handmade organic cotton ones with our Heartweave logo! Bring your handcrafted forest face masks for a Safety Swap! Let's gather safely and celebrate our forests!

Climate-friendly food menu! Inclusive Options!

Things to bring:
BYO Tent and Sleeping bag,
or BYO Sheets and bedding for cabin bunks,
toothbrush, Auction Item, clean socks,
stories of the places you love and defend,
song or other silliness for the Sunday Night Talent Show,
walking boots, wallet, water bottle,
rain gear, evening chill gear,
that friend who likes to go hiking
that friend who has never been in a big forest
extra money for the Auction
your latest poem, or an interesting pebble
memories of 30 years of forest defense
your vision for a forested future for all!



Visit our website for more details as they emerge
 Ask about ways to save on registration fees and special rates for children
<https://heartwood.org/events/>
 Contact us at info@heartwood.org • (812) 307-4326



Heartwood Mini-Grant Funds *Shawnee Showdown* Documentary and Roadshow

by John B. Wallace

ILLINOIS – A new documentary film on the Shawnee National Forest and forest activism is generating local interest and going on tour, thanks in part to a Heartwood Mini-Grant. *Shawnee Showdown, Keep the Forest Standing*, a documentary film by Southern Illinois University Arts and Media professor Cade Bursell, retraces the battle over commercial logging within the Shawnee National Forest for more than three decades. In the face of climate change, activists are once again asking hard questions about logging and public land use.

All screenings are followed by a panel discussion of activists and others featured in the film and the filmmaker herself. Producer Bursell's intent in creating this film was to document the historic fight to protect the Shawnee from logging in the 1990s, and to hopefully create a dialogue toward protecting the Shawnee into the future. She seems to be succeeding, as efforts are underway to shift the Shawnee out of the US Forest Service and into the US Department of Interior Park Service by creating the new Shawnee National Park and Climate Preserve.

The Outdoors Page columnist for the region's newspaper, the *Southern Illinoisan*, Les Winkeler, wrote a stunning review of the film and the film's panel discussion in his weekly column (see accompanying article). He followed that column with an endorsement of shifting management of the Shawnee from the US Forest Service to the National Park Service. Past Congressman Glenn Poshard (also a keynote speaker at the first Forest Council in the Shawnee in 1990) participated in one local panel discussion. Poshard announced his support for the national park and/or preserve idea following the screening. Check out audio interviews of both Poshard and Winkeler on the Shawnee Forest Defense! website at <http://www.shwaneeforestdefense.info>.

The success of the local screenings has motivated Shawnee activists to take the film and panel discussion to a broader audience. *Shawnee Showdown* and accompanying roadshow has been screened and discussed in southern Illinois' Carbondale and Harrisburg, in Paducah, KY, and at Webster University in St. Louis, MO. More roadshow screenings are in the works, with scheduled programs in southern Indiana, the University of Illinois in Champaign Urbana, and during the 2022 Heartwood Forest Council at Camp Piomingo in Brandenburg, KY. The Heartwood Mini-Grant has been a great help to Shawnee Forest Defense! in taking the *Shawnee Showdown* film and panel of activists on the road!



photo by John Wallace



Shawnee Showdown: Keep the Forest Standing is time well-spent

by Les Winkeler

Sitting in a dark Southern Illinois University auditorium, I was transported back to the 1990s by *Shawnee Showdown: Keep the Forest Standing*.

Cade Bursell, a professor in the School of Media Arts, captured the feel and flavor of the era and the environmental movement in Southern Illinois from 1991-93. The hour-long documentary focuses on the protests and court battles to stop clear-cutting in the Shawnee National Forest, with particular attention to the Fairview area.

Bursell seamlessly blends gorgeous cinematography, news footage from the era, and newspaper clippings to tell a story that is as entertaining as it is informative. And she does a magnificent job of staying out of the way, allowing the activists to tell their own stories.

The most effective tool Bursell employs is before-and-after footage involving troops who were on the front lines of this environmental fight. People like John Wallace, Mark Donham, Jan Wilder-Thomas, Deb Bouton, Rene Cook, Sam Stearns, and others who were engaged in the actual protests and protracted court battles are shown in 1990s news footage, presenting the case against clear-cutting.

Fast-forward 30 years, and Bursell places these same people into the forest where they reminisce about those days of camping in the woods, confronting police, and piecing together a legal strategy that ultimately resulted in a 17-year moratorium on logging.

The technique exposes the still-simmering passion of the environmentalists. At the same time, the viewer is made privy to the wisdom and insights gleaned in the intervening 30 years. Bursell's storytelling reveals the character of the activists.

The viewer learns to see Wallace, Bouton, Donham et al., as people — not just players in this eco-political drama. Perhaps the most striking takeaway is that none of the featured players second-guess their actions.

In fact, all are still outspoken advocates for the forest. Following the showing of the documentary, they expressed their continued concerns about logging operations currently being conducted in the Shawnee National Forest.

However, looking through the trees to see the forest, the underlying story here is the power of the people. It may seem as if the federal government holds all the cards — it has the inertia of a massive bureaucracy, legions of lawyers, and political clout on its side.

Yet the history of Southern Illinois, not to mention the Shawnee, was changed by a handful of citizens who were convinced they held the moral high ground and who refused to be cowed into submission.

It wasn't easy. Some endured physical hardships. Others were willing to be arrested for their beliefs. But, in the end, they persevered and used the law, invoking the Migratory Bird Act, to halt the logging. Covering all the bases, they also used the research of ornithologist Jean Graber to back up their claims.

Finally, it's important to bear in mind that *Shawnee Showdown: Keep the Forest Standing* is more than a history lesson. It's an outline, it's a primer, and it remains relevant in today's world.

As Bursell said in a press release issued by Southern Illinois University, the film aims to bring about collective thinking "about public land use given the context of climate change and the most recent research in forest ecology."

Mission accomplished.

If you have a chance, view the documentary. It's time well-spent.

Reprinted by permission from the *Southern Illinoisan*

A Proposal to Create the Shawnee National Park and Climate Preserve

by John B. Wallace

ILLINOIS – Commercial logging on the Shawnee National Forest has returned with a vengeance and is once again facing opposition from forest neighbors. A new idea has been introduced to change the Shawnee from a national forest to a national park. Is the concept of creating the Shawnee National Park and Climate Preserve out of the existing Shawnee National Forest land even reasonable, or is the proposition merely an impractical notion?

Considering all factors, it is more than reasonable; a drastic shift away from natural resource exploitation and a shift toward preservation and recreation on the Shawnee is long overdue. The current climate change emergency facing the planet and humanity is demanding significant societal changes as it relates to reducing our burning of fossil fuels—as well as preserving the most efficient, terrestrial carbon sequestration mechanisms and storage units available, which are undisturbed forests.

There are few national parks in the central United States. The Shawnee National Forest contains incredible scenery but more significantly, the natural features and historic resources contained within its boundaries meet all the standards set for consideration by the National Park Service. The US Forest Service (FS) has lost its way and is out of touch with its mott, “Caring for the land and serving people”. The agency is fervently logging right now and is poised to strip another 5,000+ acres by using clearcut-style, industrial logging. The FS also plans to artificially burn 10,000 to 15,000 acres this year alone and spray herbicide on thousands more acres.

The amount of CO₂ released by logging operations is astounding and the value of mature, eastern deciduous forests in sequestering and storing carbon is beginning to be recognized. Considering the fact that our country’s national parks are overcrowded, it is clear that the best use of public land is to protect it and to end timber industry subsidies via publicly owned trees. Public demand nationwide and in this region of the country is poised to readily welcome and utilize a new, centrally located park — and the Shawnee is perfectly situated to become the 64th National Park.

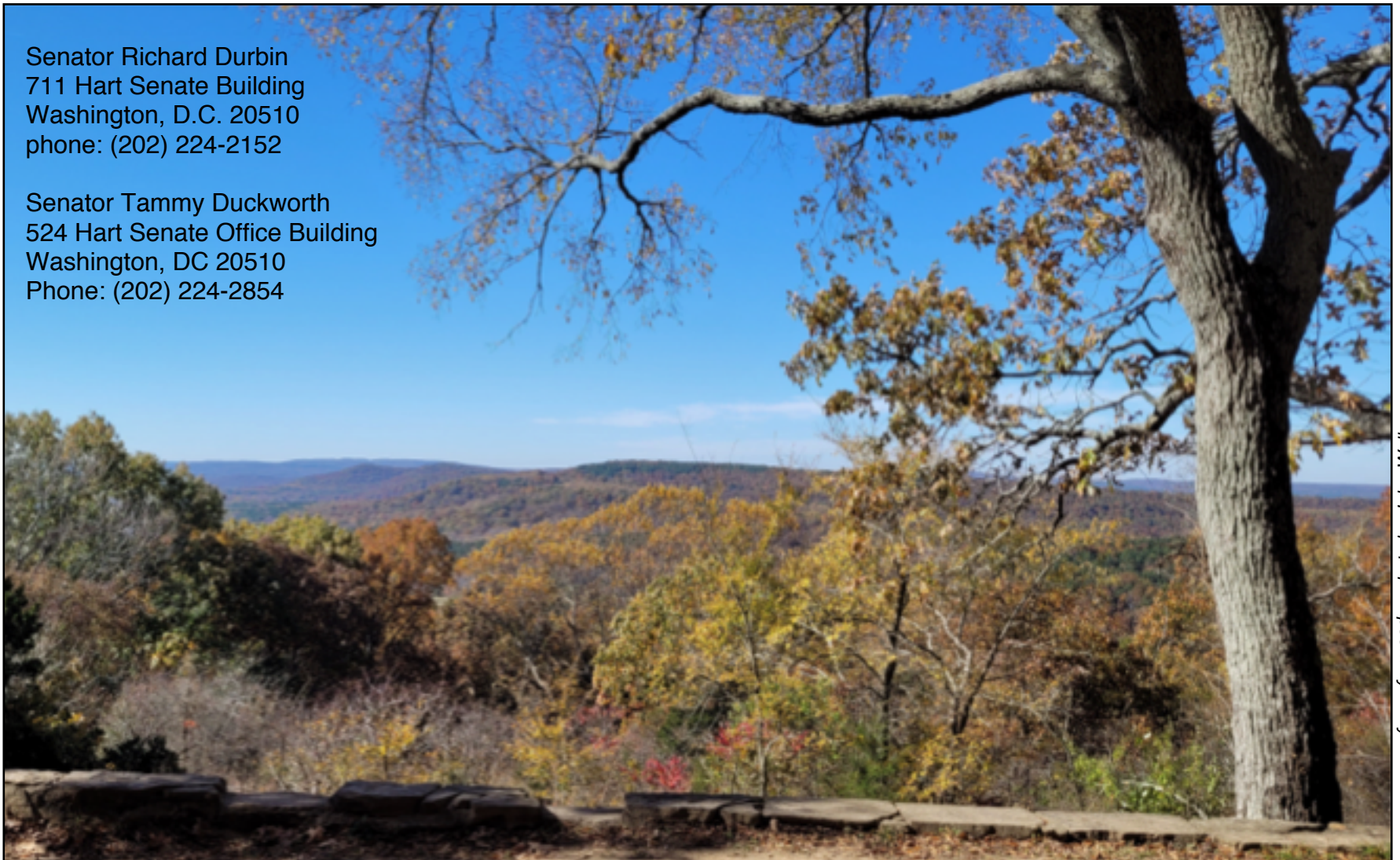
The National Park Service (NPS) is highly respected. In fact, according to a 2019 survey on federal agencies conducted by the Pew Research Center, nearly nine in ten Americans view the National Park Service very favorably, behind only one other agency, the U.S. Postal Service. National Parks are considered to be “America’s best idea”. The Shawnee deserves to be part of that idea and the nation’s first Climate Preserve.

To read more about the proposal to create the Shawnee National Park and Climate Preserve, and learn how to help make this proposal become reality, go to the Shawnee Forest Defense website at www.shawneeforestdefense.info.

Write and/or call Illinois Senators Richard Durbin and Tammy Duckworth and ask them to protect the Shawnee as a Climate Change Preserve so that it may maintained as a carbon sink forest, for scenic beauty, for watershed protection, for wildlife habitat, and for multiple recreation uses (i.e. hiking, horseback riding, biking, wildlife watching, camping, hunting, fishing, rock climbing, and boating). Stopping past destructive management would help the forest recover, prevent future wildfires, and truly serve the greatest good.

Senator Richard Durbin
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
phone: (202) 224-2152

Senator Tammy Duckworth
524 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-2854



The
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every
voice
**YOU
WILL
NOT
TAKE
OUR
FOREST!**

photo by John Wallace
poem by Andy Mahler

Hoosier Logging from page 1

the project is to “improve the sustainability of the oak-hickory ecosystem.”

Oaks are among the most magnificent and majestic of the towering trees in an older hardwood forest. The Forest Service expresses deep concern for the declining proportion of oaks in the forest. And yet the primary focus of their solution to this problem is to cut down hundreds of oak trees.

A table on page 2 of the scoping letter for the Buffalo Springs project that lists the forest types that will be subject to logging discloses that 59% of the cutting will be among oak-hickory, with oak-pine contributing another 8% — meaning more than two-thirds of all logging will be in oak stands.

The Forest Service attributes the predominance of oaks in what is now the Hoosier National Forest to Euro-American settlers whose clearing of the original forest; grazing by hogs and cattle; repeated burning; and other forms of abuse and degradation favored oaks in the recovering forest. Paradoxically, when they talk about “restoring” the forest, it is not the towering oaks of the original forest they would restore, but the conditions of degradation and abuse that produced the unnatural representation of oaks they seek to perpetuate (so they can cut them down again).

2. Logging and road-building

The other priority identified in the statement of need for their BS proposal is to “regenerate native hardwood communities by removing non-native pines, while also improving overall forest health and wildlife habitat” — also known as logging and road building.

What the Forest Service fails to mention is that hardwoods are already naturally replacing the pines they propose to clearcut throughout the forest. This is happening at no cost to taxpayers, and without causing additional harm to the highly erodible sites where the pines were planted to stabilize soils and stop erosion. The Forest Service would instead convert horse trails to logging roads covered with gravel and bring in monstrous, highly mechanized equipment to clearcut the sites. The Forest Service would remove the beautiful old pines, which hold enormous volumes of moisture, while providing shelter to a great variety of species including endangered Indiana bats — and then repeatedly burn the sites and spray herbicide to kill competing vegetation. This level of disturbance would dramatically increase forest fragmentation, harming those bird and other species that require closed-canopy forest for nesting and breeding; it would provide access for the scourge of non-native species, like Japanese stilt grass, that are replacing native flora — right into the heart of the forest; and it would dramatically dry out the sites and again expose fragile and vulnerable soils to the erosive effects of sun, rain, and wind.

The Buffalo Springs area of the Hoosier National Forest contains truly remarkable cultural, historical, and archæological sites. It contains four very popular recreation trails and two recreational lakes; it features a world-class karst system of caves, rock shelters, sinkholes, cliffs and springs; and it includes a significant portion of the watershed of Patoka Lake, the cleanest municipal water supply in the State of Indiana. And yet, paradoxically, the Forest Service sees only trees to cut and roads to build — all of which will degrade the recreational, heritage, karst, and water features that make this area so unique and so special in the first place.

3. Early successional habitat

The Forest Service claims that “the project area is currently dominated by mature forest,” and therefore they need to cut down the old forest in order to provide young forest — what they call “early successional habitat” for the species that require those conditions to thrive. This claim is false. Not only is the existing forest far from true maturity, there is already far more young forest than the Forest Service will admit, so intent are they on cutting down trees and building roads into the forest to get to them. The Forest Service doesn't differentiate between a tree that is 140 years old or 200 or 360 or 500 years old, grouping them all together as one age class. All of these cumulatively represent less than 1% of the forest in the Buffalo Springs area — hardly a mature forest. At the same time, the Forest Service grossly undercounts the earliest age class because they ignore what is happening on adjacent privately owned land, which makes up 12,000 acres — or 41% — of the Buffalo Springs project area. They also fail to include utility and road right-of-ways; the openings created when large trees fall; tornado damage and other windfalls; and other natural disturbances, all of which represent abundant early successional habitat.

4. Illegal plan

The Forest Service claims they are required to do all this logging and road-building because it is “an implementation of the 2006 Hoosier National

Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan), with the goal of moving the Forest toward its identified desired future condition.” What they neglect to mention is that the Forest Plan is grossly out of date and out of compliance with the National Forest Management Act of 1976. This Act requires that the Forest Service come up with a new plan for the Hoosier National Forest (and every other national forest) no later than every 15 years or whenever there is new information, changing circumstances, or changes in public attitudes regarding how the Hoosier National Forest should be managed.

Changing conditions and new information since 2006 that dictate the development of a new forest plan include the following:

- The hottest annual temperatures in recorded history
- An unprecedented number of climate related billion dollar loss weather events, including December tornadoes in Kentucky that caused catastrophic loss of life and horrific property damage (and created tens of thousands of acres of early successional habitat)
- Emerald ash borer and the almost total loss of mature ash trees throughout the forest
- White nose syndrome and plummeting bat populations
- Proliferation of Japanese stilt-grass and other invasive species following disturbance to the forest
- Overwhelming public support for comprehensive long-term protection and precautionary management for publicly owned forests
- A global pandemic that has disrupted many aspects of our lives but that has also resulted in increased interest in outdoor recreational opportunities as well as increased interest in rural real estate — especially next to protected public lands

Any one of these major changes since the current Forest Plan was issued in 2006 should mandate an assessment of changing conditions and the preparation for a new round of forest planning — or, at the very least, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the Buffalo Springs project.

5. \$\$\$

In the entire scoping document there is almost no mention of timber sales or other financial considerations, though they are proposing to remove thousands of commercially valuable oaks and other trees.

Otherwise inexplicable choices made by large bureaucracies like the Forest Service can often be explained by something called budget maximization, in which — other things being equal — the agency will choose the option with the highest likelihood of increasing their budget. Those Forest Service employees whose training or philosophical approach are most closely aligned with the activities that enhance the Forest Service budget are those most likely to wind up in positions of responsibility and decision-making authority. Performance targets for Forest Supervisors and performance reviews for Forest Service employees also skew toward those activities that tend to maximize agency budgets.

Congress provides the Forest Service with money for operating expenses through the appropriations process each year — but they have also given the Forest Service a set of six separate incentives that reward the Forest Service for cutting down trees in national forests by allowing them to keep a significant portion of the money they receive from selling the trees. When trees were cut for timber back in the 1980s, there was an expectation that the sales would be profitable and that most if not all of the money received from selling the trees from the national forests would be returned to the treasury. With the discovery that the Forest Service was losing millions of dollars each year on timber sales from national forests — along with growing public outrage at the degradation of the public forests resulting from the logging — the timber sale program was scaled back. But the cutting and selling of trees continued under different guises, and the rationales for the retention of receipts became more creative. The Forest Service has continued to sell trees for purposes they call “salvage,” “stewardship,” and most recently, “restoration.” The beauty of the use of the term “restoration,” from the Forest Service perspective, is that most people support the idea of restoration. Most people don't realize it is a euphemism for logging — and best of all, the Forest Service gets to keep all the money because there is no expectation that work conducted for forest

restoration should make money. There is not nearly as much environmental scrutiny of projects conducted for restoration as there is for timber sales. And it is not just the Forest Service that exploits these perverse incentives. For example, more than half of the entire operating budget of the Indiana Division of Forestry comes from cutting and selling trees in the state forests.

6. Fire

Speaking of perverse incentives, more than half of the Forest Service's budget is now dedicated to fire. In response to the horrific and unprecedented mega-fires out West with their catastrophic loss of lives and destruction of property, Congress has given the Forest Service a virtual blank check to address fire risk in western national forests. Those funds, however, can be used anywhere in the national forest system to reduce fire risk — even in wet Midwestern hardwood forests like the Hoosier where the fire risk is negligible. The Forest Service now, in the name of fire risk-reduction, wants to change the Hoosier National Forest from a fire-resistant forest to a fire-adapted forest by burning it repeatedly and thereby favoring those species — most notably some of the oaks — that can withstand repeated burning. The Forest Service is so flush with fire money from Congress that they are actually proposing to burn up to 5,000 acres of private land (with landowner permission of course) in addition to the up to 10,000 acres of national forest lands as part of the BS proposal.

7. "Restoration"

The two main things that will be restored by the BS proposal are the Forest Service budget and the degraded conditions that favored oaks at the time land was acquired for the establishment of the Hoosier National Forest. The Forest Service's idea of restoration involves bulldozers, logging roads, skidders, and other heavy logging equipment; chainsaws; drip torches; log trucks; and burning lots of fossil fuels — drying out the forest soils and exposing them to sun, wind and rain.

8. Climate

A growing body of research is suggesting that the single most important step humans can take to mitigate climate change is to leave as much mature forest standing as possible in the temperate forested regions of the planet — including the Buffalo Springs area of the Hoosier National Forest. Instead, everything the Forest Service has proposed in their BS project would exacerbate the warming of the planet and consume fossil fuels in the process.

To restore the forest, let it grow.

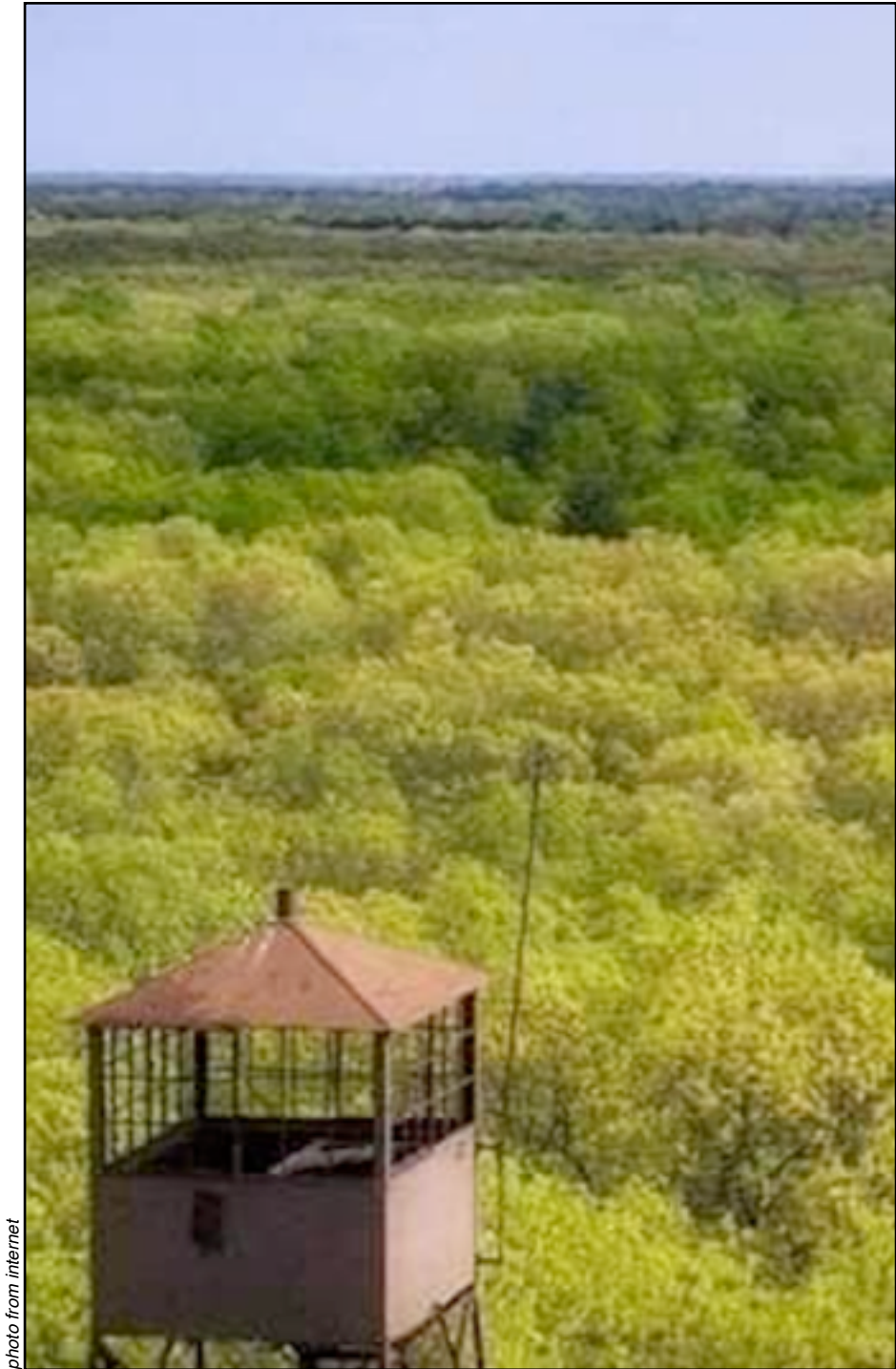
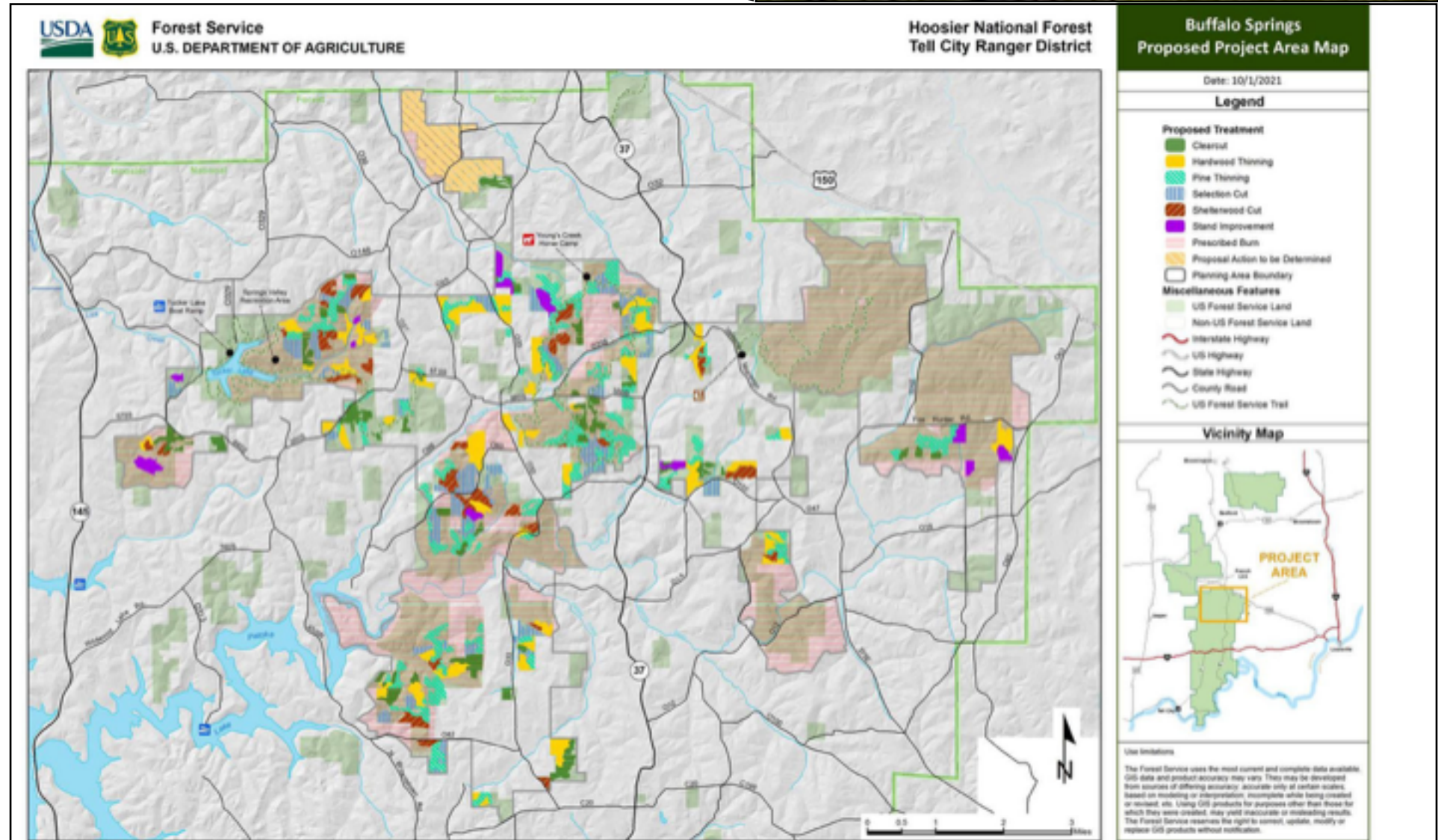


photo from internet



Legal Petition Calls On Biden to Phase Out Federal Oil, Gas by 2035

by Taylor McKinnon

WASHINGTON DC — More than 360 climate, tribal, religious, and conservation groups have petitioned the Biden administration to use its executive authority to phase out oil and gas production on public lands and oceans.

The petition provides a framework to manage a decline of oil and gas production to near zero by 2035 through rulemaking, using long-dormant provisions of the Mineral Leasing Act, Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, and the National Emergencies Act. Without such action, it will become increasingly difficult for the United States to meet its pledge to help avoid 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming and its unprecedented social, environmental, and economic damage.

The petition offers a way to correct the Biden administration's collapse of climate leadership, including a failing legislative agenda and Biden's broken campaign promise to end new oil and gas leasing and drilling on public lands and oceans.

Several analyses show that climate pollution from the world's already-producing fossil fuel developments, if fully developed, would push warming past 1.5 degrees Celsius, and that avoiding such warming requires ending new investment in fossil fuel projects.

At November's COP26 summit in Glasgow, Biden called climate change "an existential threat to human existence" and pledged to cut US emissions by up to 51% over the next nine years. Days later the administration offered 80 million acres in the Gulf of Mexico for oil and gas leasing, and it plans to offer more than 300,000 acres of public lands leases in March.

The Department of the Interior's review of the federal oil and gas programs effectively ignored climate, calling instead for adjustments to royalties, bids, and bonding.

Meanwhile, Biden's administration has continued to approve drilling permits onshore at a rate that outpaces the Trump administration, with more than 3,500 permits approved since taking office.

Federal fossil fuel production causes nearly a quarter of US greenhouse gas pollution, worsening the climate and extinction crises and disproportionately harming Black, Brown, Indigenous, and low-wealth communities.

Peer-reviewed science estimates that a nationwide federal fossil fuel leasing ban would reduce carbon emissions by 280 million tons per year, ranking it among the most ambitious federal climate policy proposals in recent years.

Oil, gas, and coal extraction uses mines, well pads, gas lines, roads, and other infrastructure that destroys habitat for wildlife, including threatened and endangered species. Oil spills and other harms from offshore drilling have done immense damage to ocean wildlife and coastal communities. Fracking and mining also pollute watersheds and waterways that provide drinking water to millions of people.

Federal fossil fuels that have not been leased to the industry contain up to 450 billion tons of potential climate pollution; those already leased to industry contain up to 43 billion tons.



photo of Deepwater Horizon disaster, largest oil spill in history, from internet

Quotes from Petitioners

"This petition offers a lifeline for our planet and a course correction for the Biden administration's catastrophic failure of climate leadership," said Taylor McKinnon with the Center for Biological Diversity. "The natural place to start phasing out climate-destroying oil and gas production is on our public lands and oceans, and Biden has the authority to do so. If the US leads, the world will follow. Biden must keep his promise to end federal oil and gas extraction." "It's time to open new doors to a thriving, resilient future for our Western US public lands and communities," said Erik Schlenker-Goodrich, executive director of the Western Environmental Law Center. "This petition does just that by winding down a cause of the climate crisis: a federal public lands fossil fuels program that serves the interests of oil and gas CEOs and investors, not the public good. We urge the Biden administration to accept the petition and move forward with swift action to protect the climate and public lands."

"At this time in history, according to Anishinaabe prophecies, people have a choice between a well-worn, scorched path and one that is new and green," said Winona LaDuke, executive director for Honor the Earth. "By all measures of science, spirit and humanity, it is incumbent upon you, President Biden and Secretary Haaland, to deliver on your promises to forge that safer path, ending fossil production on public lands and waters. We worked hard to help you gain office, and you abandoned us on Line 3; here is another significant opportunity to do the right thing. Here at White Earth we are celebrating the end of the fossil era, practicing our sustainable traditions, and building the new green economy. We welcome you to come see how it's done."

"Last year over 132 million Americans experienced a climate-related disaster, with extreme weather costing over \$145 billion in damage and leading to more than 688 lives lost," said Nicole Ghio, senior fossil fuels program manager at Friends of the Earth. "We cannot fight climate change while ignoring the fact that nearly a quarter of US climate emissions come from fossil fuel extraction on public lands. It's time for President Biden to become the climate leader he claims to be and phase out fossil fuel extraction on public lands and waters."

"Fossil fuel extraction on public lands and waters must end or it will only intensify the already devastating impacts to our climate and waterways," said Marc Yaggi, executive director of Waterkeeper Alliance. "Indigenous and underserved communities disproportionately bear the brunt of these impacts that result from long-standing federal policies that have favored industry over public interest. It's time the Biden administration keeps its promises and uses its position of power to be a climate leader that stems the tide of fossil fuel dependence."

"Oil and gas extraction is an environmental justice issue, continuing centuries-old exploitation and assaults on our Appalachian Ohio communities while greatly contributing to the climate crisis," said Roxanne Groff of Athens County's Future Action Network. "Our region is ripe for new technologies and innovative, cost-effective clean energy to protect our air, water, forests, and climate and improve public health and our quality of life. Appalachian Ohio's Wayne National Forest can play a huge role in protecting climate. Drilling and logging it do not serve the public good and must cease. This proposed phase-out is the least the Biden administration can do toward that end."

"Right now, fossil fuel extraction on public lands and waters make up a quarter of our greenhouse gas emissions — at a time scientists are saying we must move urgently to cut emissions by at least half," said Dan Ritzman, director of Sierra Club's Lands, Water, Wildlife program. "Not only does it devastate our planet, it's a handout to Big Oil at the expense of average Americans, who will bear the brunt of its societal, health, and financial ramifications. We urge the Biden Administration to take advantage of this historic opportunity to make good on campaign promises, fulfill a global commitment to acting on climate, and serve American communities by accepting this petition and phasing out oil and gas production on public lands and oceans."

Mountain Valley Pipeline Permits Revoked!

by David Sligh

VIRGINIA – The United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit has ruled twice against federal resource agencies that have failed to meet their legal duties to protect us and our resources from destruction caused by the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP). In cases brought by Wild Virginia and our allies in the Heartwood network, the courts continue to serve as a backstop for agencies that simply haven't done their jobs.

These wins are cause for celebration and you, our loyal members and supporters, share the credit for making them happen!

Now, we will use the momentum gained to try to end this destructive project once and for all. But first, we want to give you a little explanation about what has just happened and what's still under way.

In the first case, decided January 25, the Fourth Circuit found that the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management had failed in their public duties to adequately assess the harmful environmental impacts of the MVP, particularly due to deficiencies in their examination of water quality pollution impacts. The court vacated the agencies' decisions to issue permits to Mountain Valley that would have allowed the pipeline to cross 3.5 miles of Jefferson National Forest, remanding the case to the agencies to re-do their analysis. Mountain Valley cannot construct the MVP without this permit.

In the case decided on February 3, the Fourth Circuit ruled that the US

Fish and Wildlife Service had failed to adequately analyze the pipeline project's environmental context when assessing harmful impacts to the endangered Roanoke logperch and endangered candy darter. Consequently, the court invalidated a federal permit that the agency had issued to Mountain Valley that would have allowed the company to construct the MVP and harm and kill these unique wildlife while doing so.

These two court decisions present major setbacks to the MVP. The project continues to struggle to obtain the federal permits it needs for construction and still faces several lawsuits, including others filed by Wild Virginia. It now lacks four of the approvals needed, and we are actively challenging several more approvals that were inadequately supported by science and law – with cases against Virginia and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

The MVP is more than three years over schedule, billions of dollars over budget, and has yet to make hundreds of difficult waterbody crossings. Each legal victory brings us closer to our goal of stopping the MVP because these victories reinforce the procedural safeguards designed to protect the environment and public health while erecting financial obstacles for Mountain Valley.

If prudent, the pipeline companies would abandon this unwise investment and each victory we achieve must increase the chance that they will finally throw in the towel, just as Dominion and Duke Energy finally did with the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.



*the Roanoke Logperch, an endangered species.
Photo from Wild Virginia, courtesy of Conservation Fisheries, Inc.*

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 Peaceful
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 Who have only time
 And care to know

I walk among giants
 Who don't know the names we have assigned them
 Who don't seem to care

Rue Anemone
 Woodland Phlox

I walk among giants only a few inches tall
 Bulbous Buttercup
 Eastern Red Columbine

I pause to say hello to
 Blue Bells
 Star Chickweed
 Prairie Trillium whose burgundy blossom
 is as delicate as death

I awaken to
 Spring Beauty,
 White and Purple Violets,
 Dutchman's Breeches
 Towering above tiny fernlike leaves
 and the infant petals of Cutleaf Toothwort

I am stopped by Wild Iris
 Frozen by tiny blades of green beneath
 miniscule brilliance of pastels
 a cathedral of flying buttresses, arches, and lights
 Singing a chorus to match any renowned symphony

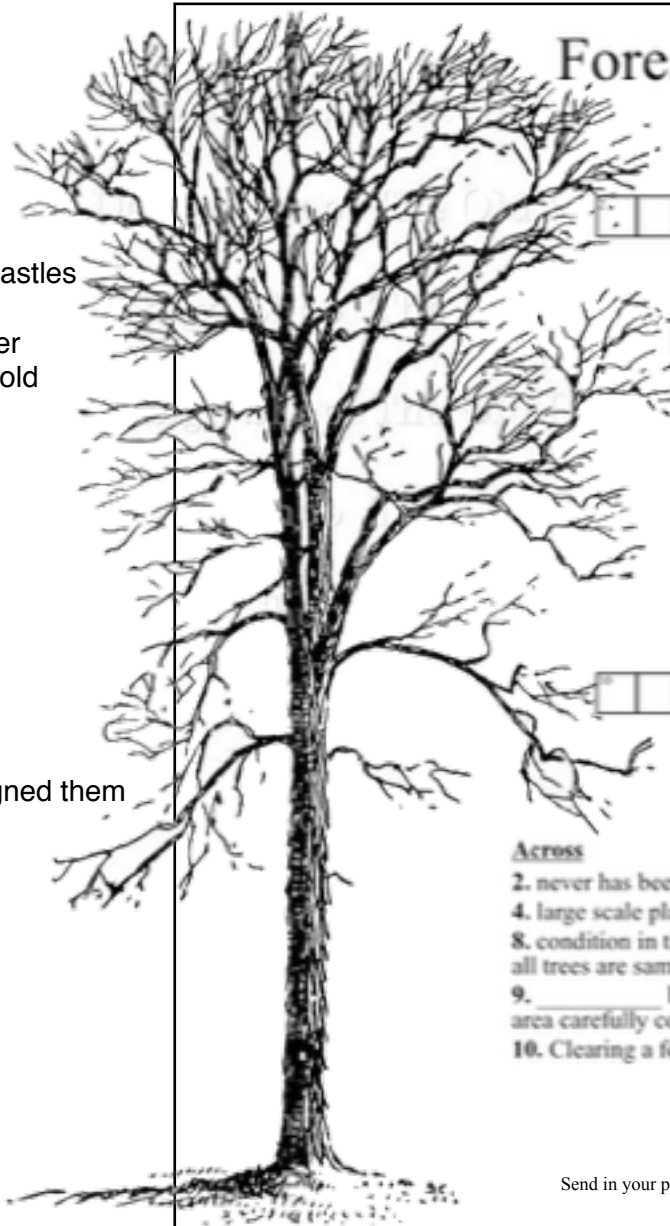
I walk among giants
 Who announce their presence
 With no regard for humans to see
 Harmonize with the passing moon
 The footsteps of deer
 Presenting their magic
 and then are gone

I am captured by
 whispering hairs of an ancient lady
 Prairie Fleabane
 Renewed perennially and glad
 Mayapple blooms honored above glossy pedestals
 Of green
 Miraculous green

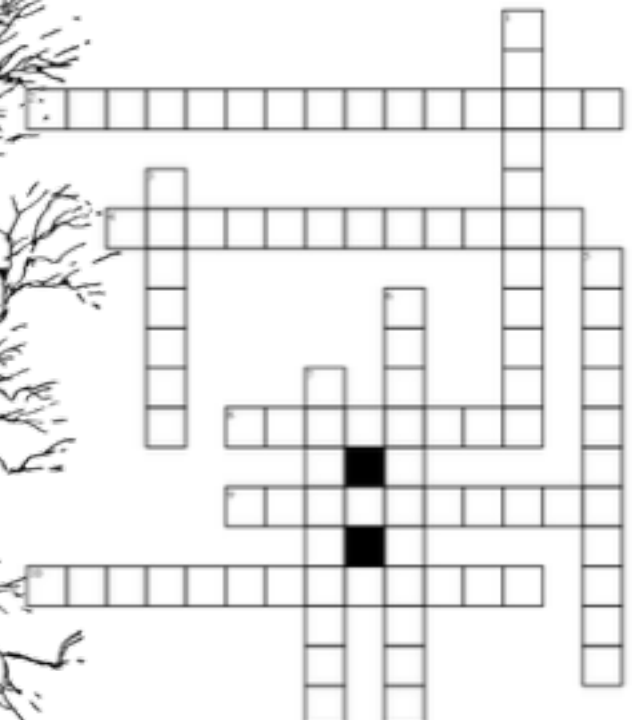
I walk among giants
 a lush kaleidoscope grove
 a powerful presence
 In the heart of this land

Rediscovering a place I called home
 But am only starting to know

poem by Rock Emmert



Forest Resource & Management



Across

- 2. never has been logged
- 4. large scale planting of a single crop
- 8. condition in timber plantations where all trees are same age
- 9. _____ burn is setting fire to an area carefully controlled
- 10. Clearing a forest for another land use

Down

- 1. _____ approach is keeping small number of mature trees to protect seedlings
- 3. cutting trees and preparing the timber
- 5. FSC stands for forest _____ council
- 6. harvesting all trees in an area at once
- 7. single tree selection is also known as what system

Send in your puzzle answers to our PO Box 543, Tell City, IN, 46586, or post them on our facebook page!
 We will publish some of the funniest or most creative replies.
 Visit our web site, <https://heartwood.org/heartbeat/>
 back issues and more! articles and other content for publication due August 2nd, Lughnasadh



*Freehand pen and ink re-creation by Rock in 1979 as a junior at Forest Park High School, Ferdinand, Indiana.
 Original artwork titled "Wild Should Wild Remain" by Chuck Eckart*